AVENGERS

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EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES!

the AVENGERS®

OKAY, MAGNETO-- MAYBE YOU AMBUSHED THE AVENGERS--

BUT HERE COMES DAREDEVIL--

--AND THE BLACK WIDOW!

WITH TWO BESIDE THEM!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!®

WITH TWO BESIDE THEM!

DANCE, MY BLANK-EYED BEAUTY!

DANCE TO MY TUNE, BECAUSE I, MAGNETO, CONTROL YOUR EVERY GRACEFUL MOVEMENT!

IS IT NOT SO, FAITHFUL PIPER?

OH YES, WISE ONE!

AS WITH THE OTHER AVENGERS YOU HAVE CLEVERLY CAPTURED, ALONG WITH THE MUTANT X-MEN--

THE SCARLET WITCH'S ONLY THOUGHTS ARE THOSE YOU HAVE GIVEN HER TO THINK! FOR NOW--

MAGNETO RULES MINDS!

A WORD TO THE WISE, FRANTIC ONE! IF YOU HAVEN'T READ AND RELISHED DAREDEVIL #99 (NOW ON SALE), YOU'D BETTER GET ON THE STICK! OUR TALE IS COMPLETE IN AND OF ITSELF-- BUT YOU'LL FIND SOME ADDED DIMENSIONS BY CHECKING OUT OL' HORNHEAD'S BOOK, TOO. WE HAVE SPOKEN!

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HOW *LONG* IT HAS TAKEN TO *REACH* THAT GOAL, PIPER-- YET EVER SINCE I FIRST *DISCOVERED* MY MAGNETIC POWER OVER IRON, I HAVE DESIRED NOTHING *ELSE!*

IT ALWAYS *SEEMED* POSSIBLE! ALL I *REQUIRED* WAS THE LEARNING OF IT!

THE MIND OF A *HUMAN*-- OR A *MUTANT*-- IS NOURISHED BY *BLOOD*... AND THAT CRIMSON FLUID *ALSO* CARRIES CERTAIN NATURAL *CHEMICALS*, USED BY THE BRAIN, FROM ONE PART TO ANOTHER.

BLOOD, PIPER, HAS A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF *IRON* IN ITS MAKEUP.

THUS, I HAVE LEARNED TO *CONTROL* THAT IRON AND *SLOW* THAT FLOW OF BLOOD TO THE BRAIN--

-- SO THAT MY VICTIMS HAVE ONLY THE *CONSCIOUSNESS* I *ALLOW* THEM!

I PERMIT THEIR BRAINS *ENOUGH* BLOOD TO KEEP THE ORGANS FROM *VEGETATING*, OF COURSE--FOR I MAY *NEED* THESE PEOPLE SOME DAY.

BUT IN THE *MEANTIME*, THEY ARE MY *SLAVES*--THE *FIRST* IN A MIGHTY ARMY OF MINDLESS MINIONS I SHALL CREATE!

--AND *THEY* SHALL HELP ME *DO* IT!

NO ONE CAN STOP ME--NOT EVEN THE *OTHER* AVENGERS!

I DO, MASTER.

REMEMBER HOW WE LEFT THEM IN *RUINS*?

YET WILL THEY NOT *REGROUP* AND ATTEMPT TO *LOCATE* THIS SECRET SANCTUARY?

OF *COURSE!* AVENGERS *NEVER* ADMIT DEFEAT!

BUT THEY ARE *DECIMATED*, PIPER--*DECIMATED!* ONLY *THOR*, THE *VISION*, AND THE *BLACK PANTHER* REMAIN OUT OF MY HANDS--

AND THE *THREE* OF THEM CAN *NEVER* STOP MY HORDES!

YET NOW, UNBEKNOWNST TO THE MALIGNANT MASTER OF MAGNETISM, THERE ARE MORE THAN THREE WHO STAND AGAINST HIM.

THE SPECTRE OF DEFEAT HAS ALSO HAUNTED THE AVENGERS -- FOR WITH THE RECENT "RETIREMENTS" OF QUICKSILVER AND HAWKEYE, ADDED TO THE SEIZURE OF THE ASSEMBLERS PREVIOUSLY SEEN, THEY ARE INDEED GREATLY BELOW THEIR USUAL STRENGTH...

...AND SO, THEY HAVE FLOWN TO SAN FRANCISCO, TO ENLIST THE AID OF DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR -- AND HIS BEAUTEOUS PARTNER, THE BLACK WIDOW!

BUT THERE HAS BEEN A PRICE.

HAWKEYE -- REFUSING YOUR PLEA FOR HELP! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT OF HIM!

I CAN, I'M AFRAID. AFTER WANDA DECLARED HER LOVE FOR ME INSTEAD OF HIM, HE WAS LIKE A BURNED CHILD.

HE NEEDED SOMEONE, AND HE RAN TO YOU, MADAME NATASHA: HIS FIRST LOVE.

"HE DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE TIMES HAD CHANGED -- THAT YOU NOW CARE FOR DAREDEVIL --

POW!

-- SO HE STRUCK OUT BLINDLY, PITTING HIMSELF IN FRUITLESS COMBAT AGAINST HIS RIVAL --

-- AND WHEN THE AVENGERS ARRIVED, HE WAS IN NO MOOD TO LISTEN. HE UNDOUBTEDLY THOUGHT WE WERE TRYING TO REPLACE HIM EVEN BEFORE THE DUST OF HIS LEAVING HAD SETTLED.

AND I TREATED HIM SO BADLY! I NEVER EVEN GAVE HIM A CHANCE TO REALLY EXPLAIN!

MAYBE -- THIS IS ALL MY FAULT, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

THE MAGNIFICENT QUINJET BANKS AND LANDS, DISGORGING ITS FIVE DISSIMILAR PASSENGERS ONTO THE GRAY PEBBLES OF THE AVENGERS' ROOF. BUT ONCE INSIDE, ONLY FOUR SEEM TO HAVE THEIR MINDS ON THE BUSINESS AT HAND.

EXCUSE ME, GENTLEMEN. YOU WON'T NEED ME FOR A WHILE.

SHE'S RIGHT, PEOPLE. WE'RE BOTH WILLING TO HELP ANY WAY WE CAN --

--BUT FROM WHAT YOU TELL ME, YOU HAVEN'T GOT THE FOGGIEST IDEA WHERE WE GO FROM HERE.

SADLY, DAREDEVIL, THAT BE TRUE.

WELL, WE **DO** KNOW MAGNETO WANTED THE **X-MEN** FOR SOME REASON-- AND AFTER HE DEFEATED **THEM**, HE TRIED TO TRAP **US.**

IN PARTICULAR, HE WANTED **WANDA--THE SCARLET WITCH.**

I KNOW WHO THE LADY IS-- EVEN IF SHE **WASN'T** AROUND THE **LAST** TIME I WAS HERE. *

SOUNDS TO ME LIKE WE'RE GOING TO BE IN FOR A LITTLE **WAIT**-- UNTIL MAGGIE MAKES **HIS** MOVE--

*IN **SPIDEY SPECIAL** #3 (HUH?)--ROY.

HOLD IT! MY FINGERS-- **FEELING** THIS NEWS-PRINT--!

UM... THIS **STORY** I JUST READ--

IT SAYS A **CONFERENCE** FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE **ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION** IS BEING HELD TODAY--

--JUST **FIFTY MILES** FROM HERE!

ATOMICS BE THE PRIME CAUSE OF **MUTATIONS**, AND MAGNETO'S FIELD OF **INTEREST!**

PERHAPS, DAREDEVIL-- PERHAPS THOU HAST PROVIDED THE **KEY!**

--THE KEY TO MY **HEART**, CLINT BARTON-- I WISH I TRULY **KNEW** WHERE IT WAS.

NOW, IT SEEMS TO LIE WITH **MATT**, MY SWASHBUCKLING **PARTNER**--AND YEARS AGO, IT BELONGED TO MY HUSBAND, **ALEXI**, WHOM THE WORLD KNEW AS THE **RED GUARDIAN.** *

BUT IN BETWEEN... THERE WAS **YOU.**

STANDING HERE IN THE ROOM YOU CALLED YOUR **OWN**, LOOKING DOWN AT THE SAME **VIEW**-- I WONDER...

...HOW OFTEN DID YOU STAND HERE AND THINK OF **ME?**

*ISSUES #43-44. --R.

OH, HAWKEYE, HAWKEYE... THEY SAID YOU WERE LIKE A **CHILD.**

IF SO, YOU ONLY NEEDED ME AS A WOMAN IN SO MANY **MORE** WAYS THAN **ONE...**

...AND I FAILED YOU IN **ALL** OF THEM.

NATASHA, YOUR BOYFRIEND'S COME UP WITH A *LEAD*, AND THEY SENT ME UP TO *FIND* YOU.

WE WANT TO GET *MOVING*.

BOYFRIEND--? OH...OH *YES*, T'CHALLA.

LET'S GET *OUT* OF THIS PLACE!

*BUT WE CAN'T GO ON TALKING ABOUT THE BELEAGUERED **BOWMAN** BEHIND HIS **BACK** LIKE THIS--AND SO, WE CUT TO **SAN FRAN:***

YOU REALLY PUT YOUR FOOT IN IT *THIS* TIME--RIGHT UP TO THE *THIGH*.

HOT CHA CHA, HERO.

THE *WIDOW-LADY* CAN'T TAKE YOU--THE *AVENGERS* FOLLOW YOU AROUND, NOT TO MAKE *NICE*, BUT TO SIGN UP YOUR *ENEMIES*...

LOOKS TO *ME* LIKE YOU'VE BURNED ALL YOUR *BRIDGES* DOWN TO *LOW-WATER LEVEL*.

--NO *OFFENSE*, GOLDEN GATE.

BUT, *BLAST* IT, I *STARTED* WITHOUT A FRIEND TO MY NAME--WITHOUT *ANYTHING*--

--AND I WORKED MY WAY UP TO THE *TOP*, FROM *CARNY PERFORMER* TO *SUPER-VILLAIN* TO *SUPERHERO!* I CAN DO IT *AGAIN*, TOO!

SO *WHAT* IF EVERYBODY TURNS THEIR BACK ON ME? SOME DAY *SOON*, THE NAME OF *HAWKEYE* WILL MEAN MORE THAN THE AVENGERS, DAREDEVIL, AND THE BLACK WIDOW PUT *TOGETHER*!

YEAH...

ENOUGH OF THIS MARCHING AROUND INSIDE PEOPLE'S *HEADS*! IT'S TIME TO TAKE THE *LONG* VIEW OF THINGS--

--JUST AS SOME SINISTER, SILHOUETTED *LURKERS* ARE DOING.

AT *LAST*: COMMISSIONER ALFRED'S HOUSE! OUR HOUR HAS *ARRIVED*!

AND INSIDE...

GENTLEMEN, I'VE CALLED THIS SPECIAL CONFERENCE AT MY *HOME*, RATHER THAN OUR *USUAL* MEETING PLACE--

--DUE TO RECENT *INTELLIGENCE REPORTS* TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE WILL BE AN ATTEMPT TO *CAPTURE* ONE OF OUR ATOMIC BASES BY *PERSONS UNKNOWN*.

THESE ARE PROBABLY *RADICALS*, SO I HAVE ASKED THE *SECRET SERVICE* FOR *DOUBLED* PROTECTION TODAY.

IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES, WE IN *AUTHORITY* CANNOT BE TOO *CAREFUL*.

ALFRED! GOOD LORD, MAN--!

BRRAK!

THE OAKEN TABLE IS RIPPING ITSELF APART!

EXCELLENT, WANDA! EVEN SAPPED OF YOUR WILL, YOU MAKE GOOD USE OF YOUR MUTANT HEX POWER!

NOW REMAIN QUIET, MY ONCE AND FUTURE COHORT-IN-CRIME! GIVE THEM AN EASY TARGET!

GET 'ER, DICK!

CRIPES! THE GUN JUST FLEW OUT OF MY HAND!

I WISH TO SEE THEIR TERROR-- WHEN I DISARM THEM BEFORE THEY FIRE!

DON'T YOU SEE WHO THEY ARE? IT'S WANDA THE WITCH, THE ONE WHO USED TO BE A CROOK-- AND HER OLD BOSS, MAGNETO!

I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD-- BUT IF HE'S COME BACK TO LIFE, HE'S COME FOR A PUNCH IN THE JAW!

NOT A CHANCE, T-MAN! NOT WHEN I CAN CONTROL THE POWERS OF ALL MY SLAVES MYSELF--

--AND ONE OF MY SLAVES IS THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN!

THEN, WASTING NO MORE BREATH ON WORDS, MAGNETO GESTURES HYPNOTICALLY--

--AND ENTER STAGE RIGHT: CYCLOPS, MARVEL GIRL, AND THE ICEMAN...

OF ALL THE COMBATANTS, ONLY THE NON-SUPER PROTECTORS MOVE AS IF THEY HAD A WILL TO WIN--

POW!

--BUT FACING THE ZOMBIE-LIKE MINIONS OF MAGNETO, THEY LOSE!

FOR WHO COULD BEST THE ABILITIES OF EVEN THE YOUNGEST SUPER-SLAVE?

ICEMAN! DON'T DO THIS!

HE CANNOT HEAR YOU, T-MAN! HIS BRAIN IS MY-- AHA!

WHILE I TURNED MY ATTENTION ELSEWHERE, CYCLOPS WAS UNABLE TO DEFEND HIMSELF!

BIFF!

BUT, THOUGH I CANNOT BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE--

THE OPPOSITION IS SO WEAK, IT DOES NOT MATTER.

THUS, WITHIN MINUTES, THE DEFENSE IS LOST-- AND THE BEATEN GOVERNMENT MEN ARE LED, SHEEPLIKE, AWAY.

BUT HAS THE BATTLE TRULY ENDED-- OR ONLY JUST BEGUN?

HOLD, MAGNETO! THE AVENGERS SHALL NOT PERMIT THEE TO DEPART!

THAT'S TELLING HIM, THUNDER GOD!

IRON MAN-- HERD THOSE MEN INTO MY SHIP!

YOU OTHERS-- FOLLOW HIM!

HURRY UP, FRED! HIS THERMAL RAYS ARE RIGHT ON MY HEELS!

THOU SHALT NE'ER AGAIN DISMAY US WITH FLYING BOULDERS, VILLAIN!

THE AVENGERS HAVE WELL LEARNED THEIR LESSON FROM OUR PREVIOUS ENCOUNTER!

NOW, LET SACRED MJOLNIR TEACH THEE THE FOLLY OF THY SCHEMES!

BUT, AS THE ENCHANTED URU HAMMER WHISTLES THROUGH THE STILL AIR--

--ANOTHER METALLIC OBJECT ARCS TO INTER-CEPT IT--

--AND GUIDED BY CAPTAIN AMERICA'S FABLED SKILL, THE SHIELD IS ABLE TO DEFLECT THE MALLET!

BLAST! THAT WAS A ONE-IN-A-MILLION SHOT!

HE MAY HAVE NEW SUPER-STRENGTH, BUT THE STAR-SPANGLED AVENGER COULD NEVER PROTECT MY CRAFT A SECOND TIME!

THEREFORE, SINCE MY CAPTIVES ARE NEARLY FINISHED BOARDING, I MUST RELEASE THE OCTOFUMES!

CAN'T SEE! ALL THIS BLACK SMOKE--!

FEAR NOT, MILADY! I BE THE GOD OF THUNDER, OF STORM--

--AND OF WIND!

YET, AS QUICKLY AS I BLOW YON SMOKE HENCE, E'EN MORE DOTH FLOW FORTH!

THE SHIP IS RISING, DO!

BUT I THINK-- WE'VE GOT A CHANCE--!

YOU'RE ON, PAL!

IT'S BEEN SOME TIME SINCE WE ACTUALLY WORKED TOGETHER!

WHAT WAS THE OLD SONG? "FIRST YOU PUT YOUR TWO HANDS OUT IN FRONT--"?

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!

SAY, DIDN'T YOU USED TO HAVE AN ACT CALLED THE FLYING WAKANDAS?

NO, I REMEMBER-- THOSE WERE THE WALLENDAS. DOES THAT BLOW OUR SHOT ON THE ED SULLIVAN SHOW?

HE WAS CANCELLED TWO YEARS AGO, HORNHEAD!

OH, WELL.

THANKS FOR THE ASSIST, T'CHALLA! I'LL SEE YOU ON THE RETURN FLIGHT!

--IF THERE IS ONE, I MEAN.

THE HYPER-SENSES I'VE DEVELOPED SINCE GOING BLIND MADE THE SMOKE NO DIFFERENT FROM A SUNNY DAY ON THE BAY TO ME--

--BUT I THINK IT'S TIME I STOPPED AND CAREFULLY CONSIDERED JUST WHAT IN THE WORLD I'M GOING TO DO WITH THIS SHIP WAY UP HIGH IN THE SKY!

OH, OH -- HE'S *ACCELERATING!* TIME TO CAN THE *JOKES* AND HANG ON FOR *DEAR LIFE!*

IF I CAN ONLY REACH THAT *PORTHOLE*-- AND MAYBE CLIMB *INSIDE*--

ZZZAAAPP!!

=UHHHH= *ELECTRIFIED!*

FALLING--

I *ALWAYS* PLAY FOR *HIGH STAKES*, YOU CRIMSON CLOWN-- AND *THIS* TIME THEY ARE THE HIGHEST *EVER!*

I ADMIRE YOUR LACK OF *FEAR*, BUT NOT IF IT BLURS INTO *STUPIDITY*--

--AND PLAYING AGAINST *MAGNETO* IS THE *SHEEREST* OF STUPIDITY!

DAREDEVIL! GRAB FOR MY *WIDOW'S WEB!*

PLEASE! IT'S YOUR *ONLY CHANCE!*

GOT IT, TASH! BUT I WOULDN'T SAY IT WAS MY *ONLY* CHANCE--

--NOT WHEN I'VE STILL GOT MY *BILLY CLUB!*

THANKS FOR *THINKING* OF ME THOUGH, HONEY. YOUR *HEART'S* IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

BLAST! WHY DID I HAVE TO SAY *THAT?*

HOWEVER, DD'S FLASH ON HOW HE STANDS WITH THE WIDOW IS CLEARLY SECONDARY TO THE JOB AT HAND!

NOW DOTH ONLY THE *SON OF ODIN* POSSESS THE POWER OF *FLIGHT* NEEDED TO OVERTAKE YON VESSEL!

BUT SUDDENLY, THE VOICE OF MAGNETO ONCE MORE FILLS THE AIR!

BACK, THOR! OTHERWISE, IRON MAN WILL DROP CAPTAIN AMERICA--

--THEN HE AND ALL MY OTHER SLAVES WILL LEAP AFTER HIM!

FIE! E'EN I COULD NOT CATCH THEM ALL! IT DOTH MEAN DEATH FOR MY FRIENDS SHOULD I CONTINUE--

--SO I MUST NEEDS ALLOW THE VILLAIN TO DEPART, THOUGH IT GRIEVETH MY VERY SOUL!

BE THERE NO LIMIT TO THE FIEND'S INFAMY? HOW MAY WE BATTLE A MAN WITH HOSTAGES?

GOOD POINT, THOR. LOOKS LIKE YOUR RECRUITING NATASHA AND ME HASN'T DONE AS MUCH GOOD AS YOU'D HOPED, WITH BATTLES SO HARD TO COME BY.

AND NOW, WE'VE RUN OUT OF LEADS.

MAYBE... AND MAYBE NOT.

SOMETHING'S BEEN BOTHERING ME, AND I JUST REALIZED WHAT!

MAGNETO CALLED OUT DINOSAURS ON US AT THE X-MEN MANSION! * THEY DIDN'T COME FROM THIN AIR-- THEY MUST HAVE BEEN HOLED UP NEARBY!

IF WE FIND THAT PLACE, IT MIGHT GIVE US A CLUE!

...BUT HOW DO WE FIND IT?

* LAST ISH.--R.

YOU FORGET THAT I'VE SMELLED THE REPTILES, AND ONCE THE PANTHER LEARNS A SCENT--

HEY! HAVE WE ALL GONE PUNCHY?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, T'CHALLA?

WE'VE BEEN STANDING HERE TALKING, AND NEVER ONCE NOTICED:--

THE VISION IS GONE!

THAT HE IS, BUCKOS--BUT WHEN HE VANISHED, AND WHETHER IT WAS UNDER HIS OWN STEAM AND OF HIS OWN FREE WILL, ARE QUESTIONS WE HAVE NO MORE ANSWERS FOR THAN THE SUDDENLY REELING AVENGERS.

THUS, LET US HOLD OUR CURIOSITY FOR THE MOMENT, AND LOOK IN UPON THE PLAYERS ON THE OTHER SIDE.

SO YOU ARE THE MEN WHO HOLD THE KEY TO AMERICA'S ATOMIC ENERGY!

UNLIMITED POWER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS--AND YET YOU REMAIN FACELESS CIVIL SERVANTS, WORKING FOR A SALARY!

HOW YOU CAN LIVE WITH YOURSELVES IS A COMPLETE MYSTERY TO ME!

I, GENTLEMEN, WAS BORN TO RULE--TO MAKE OTHERS GROVEL AT MY FEET!

IF I HAD YOUR OPPORTUNITIES, I WOULD NOT LET THEM LANGUISH AN INSTANT--

--AND I SHALL HAVE THEM!

"FOLLOWERS ARE THE STAFF OF LIFE ITSELF TO ME! IN THE BE-GINNING, I HAD MY BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS, INTO WHOSE RANKS I BLACKMAILED THE SCARLET WITCH AND QUICK-SILVER!

"LATER, WHEN I BECAME TRAPPED IN KA-ZAR'S SAVAGE LAND, I CREATED MY SUPPORTERS BY MUTATING SWAMP MEN! PIPER, HERE, " IS ONE OF MY RESULTS!

NOW I PLAN TO CREATE EVEN MORE MUTANTS--AN ARMY OF THEM--AND YOU ARE GOING TO GIVE ME THAT KEY I SPOKE OF BEFORE!

YOU ARE GOING TO TELL ME HOW I MAY GAIN ACCESS TO ALL THE ATOMIC POWER IN THIS COUNTRY--

--SO THAT I CAN LOOSE IT UPON THE POPULACE!

I COMPUTE THAT THE SEARING RADIATION WILL EVENTUALLY DESTROY 92% OF THOSE IT TOUCHES... BUT THE REMAINDER--THE STRONG--WILL BECOME MUTANTS...

...MUTANTS THAT ARE MINE TO COMMAND!

YOU'RE MAD! STARK-STARING MAD!

YOU CAN'T REALLY BELIEVE YOU'LL GET AWAY WITH THIS!

BUT I DO! NO ONE CAN STOP ME!

I'VE CAPTURED THE X-MEN--AND BEATEN THE AVENGERS AT EVERY TURN!

YOU SEE, MAGNETO'S PLANS COVER ALL EVENTUALITIES!

"I TRIED OUT THIS SCHEME ON A MUCH SMALLER SCALE MONTHS AGO,* AND IT WAS WELL I DID. THE DEVICE I PLANNED TO USE EXPLODED, RELEASING RADIATION FATAL TO NON-MUTANTS.

"AS IT WAS, I WAS BADLY INJURED, AND SPENT THOSE MONTHS FIGHTING MY WAY BACK TO LIMITED HEALTH.

"YET, NOW I AM WHOLE AGAIN, DUE TO MY MASTERFUL PLANS! I HAD BEEN GRIEVOUSLY HURT BEFORE, WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THE SAVAGE LAND, AND SWORE AT THAT TIME TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS FOR THE FUTURE!

"THUS, WHEN THE X-MAN CALLED ANGEL FELL INTO MY HANDS, I TRICKED HIM INTO WEARING A COSTUME OF MY DEVISING-- A COSTUME THAT WOULD GRADUALLY ABSORB HIS YOUTHFUL MUTANT ENERGY!

*AMAZING ADVENTURES #9-10. --R.

"YESTERDAY, THEN, I PAINFULLY STOLE INTO THE X-MEN'S BASE--

"--AND DRUGGED MY VICTIM INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS!

"I STRIPPED THE TREACHEROUS UNIFORM FROM HIS BODY AND DONNED IT MYSELF, CAUSING IT TO IMBUE ME WITH ITS COLLECTED POWER!

"AT THAT MOMENT, MAGNETO WAS REBORN!

"WHEN THE X-MEN DISCOVERED ME, IT WAS TOO LATE! I BESTED THEM ALL BY CONTROLLING THEIR BRAINS-- AND THEN LAID A TRAP FOR THE AVENGERS!

"MISTAKING ME FOR THE ANGEL IN THE DARK, THEY WERE EASY PREY!"

AND YOU DARE SAY I CANNOT SUCCEED? I, WHO HAVE DONE ALL THAT?

STOP WASTING MY TIME--

--AND TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO KNOW!

PAL, I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE HENRY KISSINGER IN DISGUISE! WE'LL NEVER BETRAY OUR TRUST!

YOU FOOLS! DO YOU THINK THIS IS A DEBATE?

YOU WILL TALK--

--BECAUSE I WILL TAKE OVER *YOUR* MINDS!

:*ARRRGH!*: CAN'T-- FIGHT IT--

I DIDN'T *WANT* TO DO IT THIS WAY. *EXTRACTING* THE INFORMATION WILL REQUIRE *MUCH* MORE TIME--

--BUT *TIME* IS SOMETHING I HAVE *PLENTY* OF!

YOU'VE HEARD THE EXPRESSION "FAMOUS LAST WORDS"...?

THIS IS THE *PLACE!* THE *TYRANNOSAURUS* IN PARTICULAR, HAS A SCENT WHICH *NO ONE* COULD FORGET--

OKAY, T'CHALLA-- BUT AFTER HAVING LOST *HALF* THE TEAM *AND* THE BAD GUY, TRAILING *DINOSAURS* SEEMS--

--*IF* THAT PERSON UNDERSTANDS THE ANCIENT TRIBAL *SECRETS* OF THOSE WHO WORSHIP THE *PANTHER GOD!*

HOLD IT! I FEEL... *VIBRATIONS* FROM BELOW THIS SPOT! THERE MUST BE A *CAVE* DOWN THERE!

I KNOW NOT HOW YOU *PERCEIVE* SUCH THINGS, DAREDEVIL--

--YET *NEITHER* DO I FEEL THE NEED TO *QUESTION!*

RATHER, I SHALL *ACT!*

CHOOM!

WITH ONE MIGHTY BLOW, THE GOD OF THUNDER BLASTS A GAPING HOLE IN THE CRAGGY GRANITE, AND THEN--

BY ODIN'S BEARD! WE HAVE FOUND OUR GOAL!

HOW CAN THEY HAVE *FOUND* ME? I THOUGHT I LEFT NO FAINTEST *TRACE!*

NO *MATTER!* *ATTACK,* MY MIND-SLAVES!!

*THEN, IN ONE OF THE **STRANGEST** BATTLES EVER RECORDED, THOR AND THE PANTHER ARE FORCED TO **DEFEND** THEMSELVES--*

*--AGAINST THE MANIACAL **ONSLAUGHT** OF THEIR OLDEST AND CLOSEST **FRIENDS!***

STAY THY *HAND,* AVENGER! I HAVE NO WISH TO *HURT* THEE!

BLANG!

*YET THE BRAIN WHICH **GUIDES** THESE MANY ATTACKERS BELONGS TO ONLY **ONE MAN**-- A MAN WHO CAN ACT **RASHLY** UNDER STRESS--*

*--FOR AN **AWARE** IRON MAN WOULD **NEVER** ATTEMPT TO FIGHT THE THUNDER GOD BY TRYING TO HOLD BACK HIS **HAMMER!***

THAT ONLY GIVES THOR A LEVER--

--WITH WHICH HE CAN MOVE A WORLD-BEATER!

THOOM!

IRON MAN WILL FIGHT NO MORE THIS DAY!

HOWEVER, WHAT MAGNETO LACKS IN FINESSE, HE RECOVERS IN THE NUMBER OF HIS SERVITORS!

ZOT!

THUNDER GODS SHOULD BE SEEN BUT NOT HURT, CYCLOPS!

FOOM!

TIME FOR SOME SHUT-EYE, X-MAN! JUST RELAX--

WHAT SOMETHING'S GOT ME!

AND THAT SOMETHING IS A TACITURN ICEMAN!

ICE IS A *TREAT* TO ONE BORN IN THE *JUNGLE*, FRIEND!

MAGNETO WILL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN *THIS!*

NOT THAT I WANT TO GIVE HIM A *CHANCE!*

THE *SLOWNESS* OF HIS SLAVES COMPARED TO *MY* FELINE SPEED SUITS ME JUST FINE *NOW!*

PLOW!

THE YOUTHFUL X-MAN REACTS NOT AT *ALL* AS HE SLAMS TO THE FLOOR--

--BUT WHEN HE *DOES* REACT, IT'S DONE *WELL!*

I'VE STRAINED EVERY SENSE I'VE *GOT* TO THE *LIMIT*, AND STILL I CAN'T FIND ANY SIGN OF THE *VISION!* WHERE CAN HE--

OH, OH! *T'CHALLA* NEVER *WAS* ABLE TO FINISH CYCLOPS!

AND IF *I* DON'T GET IT TOGETHER--

--HE'LL FINISH *ME!*

HOW *ABOUT* THAT? THE MAN WHO'S ALL *EYES*--

--AGAINST A *BLIND MAN!* THE AVENGERS WOULD *FLIP* IF THEY *REALLY* KNEW WHAT'S GOING ON!

BUT THAT'S MY *SECRET*, FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE!

"*EYES* GOT A SECRET," YOU MIGHT SAY!

BAP!

HOWEVER, AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED, THIS IS NO ONE-ON-ONE FIGHT!

MARVEL GIRL'S LEVITATED DD--AND WANDA'S PULLING THE CEILING DOWN ON HIM!

ONLY ONE HOPE--

--AND THAT'S TO GET THE MAN IN CHARGE OFF HIS PERCH AND PUT HIM WHERE THE ACTION IS!

WHAT?

ALL RIGHT, MAGNETO: USE YOUR OWN POWER TO KEEP THOSE ROCKS OFF DAREDEVIL, OR YOU'LL BE JUST AS BIG A PANCAKE AS HE WILL!

EASILY DONE, YOU CONFOUNDED MEDDLER, BUT I'LL NOT STOP THERE!

I HAVE NOT BOTHERED TO OVERRIDE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS' MINDS, BECAUSE WATCHING YOU STRUGGLE WAS MORE AMUSING--

--BUT I AM NO LONGER AMUSED!

OHHH!

HA HA! THIS IS THE END OF THEM, PIPER!

THE X-MEN... THE AVENGERS... AND SOON THE WORLD-- ALL WITHIN MY GRASP!

KLUD

YOU SHOULD LEARN TO *COUNT*, MADMAN.

YOU ARE *ONE* AVENGER SHORT.

GOOD *LORD!* THAT'S NOT HIS *VOICE*, AND MY SENSES *STILL* SAY *DIFFERENT*-- BUT THAT'S *GOT* TO BE...

...THE *VISION!*

CORRECT, DAREDEVIL.

I AM *WITHIN* THE BODY OF THIS MUTANT FLAUTIST--YET STILL SO NEARLY *INTANGIBLE* AS TO SAVE ALL HIS *ORGANS* FROM HARM.

ONLY MY *BRAIN* HAS BEEN SOLIDIFIED *JUST* ENOUGH TO DIRECT HIS MOVEMENTS.

--*MY* ANSWER TO MAGNETO'S *MIND CONTROL.*

BUT LET ME NOW FLOW *FORTH*, SO YOU MAY SEE FOR *YOURSELF.*

I *ENTERED* THE PIPER'S FORM UNDER COVER OF MAGNETO'S *BLACK FOG* EARLIER.

HOWEVER, SINCE STAYING WITHIN ANOTHER'S BODY COULD HAVE *GRAVE CONSEQUENCES* FOR *BOTH* OF US, I HAD TO DELAY ANY *ACTION* UNTIL I WAS *CERTAIN* I KNEW EXACTLY HOW TO *PERFORM* IT.

BUT, *VISION*-- YOU'VE NEVER DARED *TRY* THAT BEFORE! THE *RISK*--

--WAS ONE I *HAD* TO TAKE... FOR *YOU*, WANDA.

THEN, AFTER A REVIVED PROFESSOR X HAS USED HIS MUTANT POWER TO PUT MAGNETO INTO A DEEP SLEEP...

I CAN RECALL EVERY-THING THAT HAPPENED WHILE I WAS IN OUR FOE'S POWER--

--AND I CAN SEE, BY READING YOUR MINDS, THAT YOU FARED SIMILARLY, MY X-MEN.

BUT THAT LEADS ME TO A TERRIBLE QUESTION: WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE ANGEL?

THAT'S RIGHT! IRON MAN SEARCHED OUR MANSION AND COULDN'T FIND HIM!

I FEAR...THE X-MEN MAY HAVE BEEN SAVED FROM ONE DILEMMA--ONLY TO BE PLUNGED DIRECTLY INTO A WORSE ONE!

YOU CALLED IT, PROF--AS WE SHALL SEE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

BUT FIRST, CLOSER TO HOME...

THE AVENGERS OWE YOU TWO A GREAT DEBT FOR YOUR HELP.

EVEN WITHOUT CONFERRING, I CAN TELL YOU WE'D LIKE TO REPAY IT BY MAKING YOU BOTH OFFICAL AVENGERS!

THANKS, CAP--WE APPRECIATE IT... BUT WE'LL HAVE TO DECLINE.

PERSONAL REASONS.

MEANING THAT ALWAYS HAVING A GROUP AROUND ME WOULD BE TOO CONFUSING FOR MY SENSES, I'D BE SWAMPED WITH IMPRESSIONS.

PLUS, IT WOULD BE MUCH HARDER TO KEEP THOSE SENSES A SECRET. IT'S TOO BAD, BUT--

WAIT A MINUTE, AVENGERS! I ACCEPT YOUR OFFER.

HUH? TASH, YOU CAN'T!

OH YES I CAN! YOU DON'T OWN ME!

AND IT GIVES ME A CHANCE TO BE AWAY FROM YOU, MATT... SO I CAN THINK THROUGH OUR RELA-TIONSHIP.

ALL RIGHT! IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT!

YOU'LL FIND ME BACK IN SAN FRANCISCO.. IF YOU'RE EVER LOOKING!

OH, MATT! WHY DON'T YOU EVER UNDERSTAND ME?

COME ON, TEAM-MATES... WE MUST HAVE THINGS TO DO.

AS YOU MAY HAVE GUESSED, NEXT MONTH'S ISSUES OF BOTH THE AVENGERS AND DARE-DEVIL ARE GOING TO HAVE SOME MILDLY INTERESTING DEVELOPMENTS--AND DON'T TAKE ANYTHING FOR GRANTED. AFTER ALL, THIS IS MARVEL! SEE YOU NEXT TIME, SAHIB!

ZONE